

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of simultaneously creating an electronic record of a hand-written document as the document is written and processing the electronic record within a computer system, the method comprising:

5 receiving electronic information relating to a document from a device, where the device creates the electronic information at the same time a hand-written record of the document is created, wherein the hand-written record of the document is created by a first party;

receiving certification information relating to the document and
10 associated with a second party;

storing the electronic information relating to the document and the certification information in an electronic record; and

making the electronic record accessible for retrieval over a network.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving electronic information relating to a document from a device comprises establishing a communication session between a computer and the device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the computer is coupled to a
20 network of computers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving electronic information relating to a document from a device comprises creating an electronic file within the device wherein the electronic file includes the
25 electronic information.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the electronic information created at the same time the hand-written record of the document is

created is communicated to a computer after the device has stored the electronic information and a communication session is initiated with the computer.

5 6. The method of claim 5, wherein communication session is initiated with the computer using a device docking station.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein communication session is initiated with the computer using wireless communication technology.

10

8. The method of claim 1, receiving certification information relating to the document and associated with a second party comprises receiving a certification file separate from the electronic information relating to the document.

15

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising preventing editing to the electronic information corresponding to the document after certification information relating to the document.

20

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising tagging the electronic record with search tags.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the search tags are defined based on a content analysis of the electronic record.

25

12. A documentation system comprising:
a digital pen configured to dispense ink while also electronically
recording writing information; and

a computer including:
5 programmed instructions to receive electronically recorded
writing information from the digital pen and create an electronic
document; and
 programmed instructions operable to allow editing and
annotations to the electronic document until certification information is
10 received corresponding to the electronic document.

13. The documentation system of claim 12, wherein the digital
pen initiates a page session including a date and time stamp and
communicates information received in the page session to the computer.
15

14. The documentation system of claim 13, wherein the page
session is interrupted and re-started.

15. The documentation system of claim 12, further comprising a
20 user interface configured to enable searches of a database of a plurality of
electronic documents.

16. The documentation system of claim 12, wherein the
computer comprises programmed instructions to organize the electronic
25 document using semantic structures.

17. The documentation system of claim 12, wherein certification
information is received from a second digital pen, different from the digital
pen.
30

18. An intellectual property documentation system comprising:
an inventor input device configured to write using a writing fluid
and electronically record writing information;

a first computer operable to receive the electronically recorded
5 writing information from the inventor input device and having
programmed instructions configured to create an electronic record from
the electronically recorded writing information, wherein the electronic
record can be modified;

a second computer operable to communicate with the first
10 computer, the second computer having programmed instructions to
receive certification information and make the electronic record read only
once the certification information is received, further the second computer
having programmed instructions to index the electronic record for retrieval
from a database; and

15 an interface in communication with the database such that a third
computer can search a plurality of electronic records on the database and
view a selected electronic record.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the certification information
20 is created using the same inventor input device and the first computer
includes programmed instructions to receive certification information and
make the electronic record read only.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the certification information
25 is created using a different inventor input device, the certification
information being obtained from certification of a conditioned hard copy
of the electronic record.

21. A system for simultaneously creating an electronic record of a hand-written document as the document is written and processing the electronic record within a computer system, the system comprising:

means for receiving electronic information relating to a document
5 from a device, where the device creates the electronic information at the same time a hand-written record of the document is created, wherein the hand-written record of the document is created by a first party;

means for receiving certification information relating to the document and associated with a second party;

10 means for storing the electronic information relating to the document and the certification information in an electronic record; and

means for making the electronic record accessible for retrieval over a network.